

February 7, 2014

This week's edition includes important information I want to share with you:

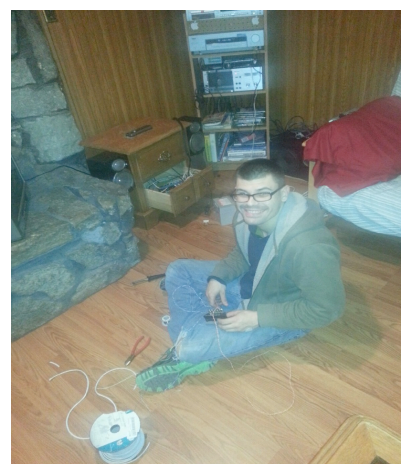
- **Person Centered Practices:** Last month, Envisions celebrated their "Becoming a Person Centered Organization" kick-off in Greeneville. Self-advocates, senior and executive management, DIDD personnel and ISC agencies attended to mark the occasion. Envisions' excitement and commitment demonstrates their intent to ensure persons supported have the very best lives possible.



"The kick-off for person-centered training meant that we are on our way to ensuring that Envisions staff are reminded of our mission – that the people we support are always our primary focus and at the top of the list are their wants, needs, desires and abilities," stated Marsha Daniels, Executive Director.

Envisions will work to become a Person Centered Organization for the next nine months.

- **Spotlighting Persons Supported:** David lives in Lexington and is beginning to start a small business for himself. He is really good at taking small appliances (vacuums, TVs, radios, etc.) apart, seeing what's wrong and repairing them. He's been doing this for a while now and calls them his "projects." He has become so good at it, that he and his circle have decided to help him advertise for business. His provider, Easter Seals, has supported him by advertising to homes where they provide services and to Easter Seals staff. David is willing to look at items in need of repair and won't charge anything for an initial inspection. If it's something he feels he can fix, he will charge a small fee for the repairs. David and his entire circle are excited about this new side business he has begun!



- **Middle Tennessee Regional Office (MTRO):** Pixie Smith-Duncan has recently joined MTRO as the Acting Director of Nursing. Prior to this position, she served as Director of Nursing for Clover Bottom Developmental Center (CBDC) and the Harold Jordan Center (HJC). We are certain Pixie's thirty (30) years of multi-disciplinary nursing experience will serve her well in this position. She can be reached at 615-231-5445 or [Pixie.Duncan@tn.gov](mailto:Pixie.Duncan@tn.gov).

- **Hospital Attendant Reminder:** DIDD funded hospital attendant services may be provided in an acute care (medical/surgical) hospital when it is medically necessary. Consideration for a hospital attendant should be given when the person has a recent history of behavioral issues that place the person or others at imminent risk of harm or that have resulted in significant damage to property. Consideration for a hospital attendant should also be given when the person is not capable of alerting hospital staff when assistance is needed. DIDD funded hospital attendant services may be accessed through the Regional Administrative Officer on Duty (AOD) when necessary. Personal Assistance, like all waiver services, may not be provided in a hospital setting. Overlapping personal assistance services when a state-funded hospital attendant is provided is overbilling and may be considered fraud by TennCare and can result in recoupments and fines.
- **Respite Waiver Service Name Change:** To be consistent with our waiver service short names and descriptions (the use of numeric characters instead of alpha characters in the description), the following changes have been made to Respite Levels A – D. These service names have now been changed to Respite Levels 1 – 4 (see tables below). This change only reflects the service name. No other change to these services were made.

The Available Services Table for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 located on the [DIDD](#) website, has been updated with these changes.

**From:**

RESPITE LEVEL A - DAILY 8-16 hrs per day Max 30 days per yr	RESPITE A
RESPITE LEVEL B - DAILY Shift staff - Max 30 days yr	RESPITE B
RESPITE LEVEL C - DAILY Overnight Awake - Max 30 days yr	RESPITE C
RESPITE LEVEL D - PER QTR HOUR Less than 8 hrs per day	RESPITE D

**To:**

RESPITE LEVEL 1 - DAILY 8-16 hrs per day Max 30 days per yr	RESPITE 1
RESPITE LEVEL 2 - DAILY Shift staff - Max 30 days yr	RESPITE 2
RESPITE LEVEL 3 - DAILY Overnight Awake - Max 30 days yr	RESPITE 3
RESPITE LEVEL 4 - PER QTR HOUR Less than 8 hrs per day	RESPITE 4

- **Million Steps Challenge:** On January 31, forty (40) Middle Tennessee Regional Office (MTRO) employees walked over 107,734 steps as part of the Million Steps Challenge. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who braved chilly temperatures and cloudy skies to participate! MTROs next walk is February 21.
- **Employment First Task Force:** On February 4, the *Employment First* Task Force met at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. The task force was provided with an overview of the TennesseeWorks workgroups that will also serve as task force issue committees. The group also identified some goals and next steps for their upcoming meeting that will be held March 13 from 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Council on Developmental Disabilities in Conference Room 1-C (Davy Crockett Tower, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville). Meeting minutes are being finalized and will be posted online within the next couple of weeks. For more information, contact Amy Gonzalez, State Director of Employment and Day Services, at [Amy.Gonzalez@tn.gov](mailto:Amy.Gonzalez@tn.gov).

- **Employment First Update:** The department is excited to announce Orange Grove Center is the newest agency to participate in the *Employment First* initiative. Orange Grove Center has also recently become an Employment Network and just assigned their first Ticket. This demonstrates Orange Grove's commitment to our initiative that will assist the people we support in obtaining and maintaining integrated employment in the community. Congratulations and we look forward to collaborating with you!
- **Project HEALTH Program:** The Sports 4 All Foundation offers equipment and classes to persons with disabilities to encourage participation in sports, exercise, recreation, and healthy decision making. Classes are offered through their Project HEALTH program. Sports 4 All is actively seeking to increase the number of instructors in Tennessee to allow persons with disabilities access to class opportunities. However, to lead a Project HEALTH class, certification must be obtained through their organization. For information on workshops and how to become a certified trainer, please contact Jared Palmitier, Project HEALTH Coordinator, at [jared@s4af.org](mailto:jared@s4af.org).
- **Tennessee Kindred Stories of Disability and Aging:** The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (VKC) and The Arc Tennessee are seeking stories about Tennesseans with intellectual and developmental disabilities related to issues of aging. What joys and challenges arise as persons with disabilities age? What hopes and fears come up for their parents and caregivers?

VKC and The Arc Tennessee wish to speak with persons with disabilities and/or family members to learn about these issues. The family member with a disability must be age 40 or older. Participants will be interviewed by graduate students from Vanderbilt University either in-person or by phone. Interviews take about an hour and will take place in March or April 2014.

Stories may be shared with members of the Tennessee Legislature and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in a collection of stories about the importance of improving quality of life for people with disabilities. Stories also may be shared through the websites and activities of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, The Arc Tennessee and via the web-based public database, [Tennessee Kindred Stories of Disability](#).

Why participate?

- To help others in similar situations.
- To create awareness of disability issues in the state of Tennessee.
- To educate service providers, state policymakers and the general public on issues of disability.
- To engage in the disability community to create positive change.

If interested in interviewing, please contact Courtney Taylor at [Courtney.Taylor@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Courtney.Taylor@vanderbilt.edu) or 615-322-5658.

- **Disability Day on the Hill:** Vanderbilt Kennedy Center programs, including TennesseeWorks, Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, Next Steps at Vanderbilt and Tennessee Kindred Stories of Disability collaborated their efforts in empowering self-advocates, parents, siblings and members of the community to meet with their legislators during Disability Day on the Hill on January 30. The VKC partnered with efforts lead by the Tennessee Disability Coalition and the Tennessee Disability Policy Alliance. Members of the Tennessee Parent Coalition and TennesseeWorks Partnership discussed the importance of competitive and integrated employment for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities with their representatives. Self-Advocates and

parents with Tennessee Disability Pathfinder's Multicultural Outreach Program spoke to legislators about the need for access to resources such as Family Support, multicultural awareness and the challenges they have encountered. Next Steps, Vanderbilt's postsecondary education program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was well-represented with multiple current students, alumni, and student ambassadors (peer mentors) sharing with legislators their appreciation for the StepUp legislation and how the education they are receiving will ensure a path to employment and independence as adults. The *Tennessee Kindred Stories of Disability: Employment edition* was also shared with each legislator thanks to efforts from The Arc Tennessee. The booklet of stories illustrate why employment matters in the lives of Tennesseans with disabilities. Overall, forty-nine (49) appointments were conducted over the course of the day that helped legislators to better understand the needs of people with disabilities and how they can be a part of ensuring those needs are met. You can access copies of *Tennessee Kindred Stories of Disability: Employment edition* [here](#).

- **Greene Valley Wellness:** Laughlin Memorial and Takoma Regional hospitals joined forces late last summer to bring CREATION Health to Greene County after a community health-needs assessment in the area.

CREATION Health is a lifestyle program that advocates small changes that can improve overall wellness in eight areas that spell "CREATION" – choice, rest, environment, activity, trust in a divine power, interpersonal relationships, outlook and nutrition. The program is funded by a \$300,000 matching grant from Adventist Health System, which co-owns Takoma with Wellmont Health System. Additional funding is being provided by Laughlin Memorial and Scott Niswonger.



Erin Franklin (pictured), CREATION Health Coordinator, spoke to Greene Valley employees on January 16 and provided a brief overview of the program including specific ways it is being implemented in Greene County. Beginning this month, Franklin will lead Greene Valley employees through an 8-week seminar, which will show them how each of the eight areas directly impacts their overall health and well-being. The goal is to teach participants how to begin making small changes in each area which can lead to increased longevity and quality of life for the individual, as well as increased productivity and decreased health care costs.

**Be safe and have a great weekend!**

~Debbie